

# The Diary of Human Days

by

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2nd Draft

Four chairs are randomly placed on an otherwise bare stage. There is an actor sitting in each one. Each are wearing a small telephone headset with microphones.

TWO

In the end...

THREE

Almost everyone winds up talking to us.

FOUR

For one reason or another.

ONE

And it's usually...

THREE

On one of the worst days...

TWO

Of their lives.

Pause.

A bell rings.

FOUR

Good morning.

TWO

Dependable Insurance Incorporated.

THREE

Dependable Insurance.

ONE

Dependable Insurance.

FOUR

Dependable Insurance.

THREE  
 Claims department.

ALL  
 How may I help you?

Beat.

THREE  
 And then...

TWO  
 They begin to tell us...

ONE  
 Their stories.

FOUR  
 Occasionally, very occasionally...

TWO  
 The stories are funny...

Beat.

THREE  
 Female, 21, pregnancy. First child. Claiming her condition as a work-place injury.

FOUR  
 When questioned, she responded that it's her boss's baby and it was conceived in his office.

ONE  
 Male, 26, car damage. He stated "Windscreen broken. Cause unknown. Probably voodoo."

THREE  
 Couple, mid thirties, car damage. They were trapped by an enormous herd of cows who proceeded to lick the paint off their car with their big cow tongues.

TWO

Female, 25, broken foot. She ran herself over with her own car.

Beat.

ONE

However these are the exceptions.

TWO

Welcome indeed.

FOUR

But exceptions nonetheless.

THREE

Most of them are more like this...

Beat.

TWO

Male, 59, undiagnosed disease. Single. Chemical plant worker. Saw his doctor in March for swelling in his hands. Over the course of 5 months the swelling has progressed. He can no longer make a fist or work with tools. The swelling has spread to his feet. Doctors cannot figure out what is wrong. In May his health declined rapidly and without warning, and he has been on dialysis ever since. No diagnosis to date.

THREE

We get these a lot.

FOUR

Sickness with no answers.

ONE

Only 35% of medical conditions fit standard diagnoses.

TWO

The rest are...

THREE

Educated guesses.

## FOUR

Male, 45, head injury. Married. Engineer. Car accident. He was driving to work and a young driver crossed the double yellow line with no warning.

## TWO

Head on collision, he was forced into a tree. He hit his head on the steering wheel, and blacked out.

## ONE

Shattered eye socket, cracked skull, traumatic brain injury,

## FOUR

And now an accomplished engineer can no longer count to 10 or button his shirt.

## Beat.

## ONE

This is the fabric of our days.

## THREE

Listening...

## TWO

Hopefully helping...

## FOUR

And in a very real way...

## THREE

Bearing witness.

## ONE

The clients, they tell you things...

## Beat.

## FOUR

Female, 24, pregnancy. Married. First child. She tells me all the details - name, time of birth, weight, height - and coos at her son in between words.

## TWO

Female, 30, Depression. Her abusive ex-boyfriend broke into her apartment and beat her while she was holding their 9-month-old son.

## THREE

She is currently in hiding with her son at her mom's house.

## ONE

Male, 48, total hip replacement. Our first phone call: "Aw ma'am, I jus' got ta tell you, I'm so thankful SO thankful. I was so scared to have this surgery. SO scared. But I got no more pain! Imagine that!"

## FOUR

And of course, we get the occasional scam artist...

## Beat.

## THREE

Male, 57, back pain. Doctor, OBGYN. He claimed his back hurt too badly to get in the necessary position to catch babies as he delivered them.

## ONE

Medical records did not support any back pain so surveillance was ordered.

## TWO

He was caught climbing up a ladder to his roof. He had a bottle of Windex and paper towels. He was cleaning his skylights. The roof tiles were slippery and he fell. He managed to catch himself on the window ledge like Batman.

## THREE

His video is a big favorite around here.

## ONE

We also get our share of those clients who suffer from the worse disease of all.

## TWO

Loneliness.

## FOUR

Female, 60, COPD. Widowed. Doing okay, all things considered, but calls often so she has someone to talk to. One day she told me, in great distress, that she had lost her dust bin. She called the next day to let me know she had found it again.

ONE

It was in her trash can.

Beat.

THREE

Some days are worse here than others.

TWO

Sometimes the world makes no sense.

ONE

Especially when you must deal with those clients that have simply run out of luck...

FOUR

Or time.

THREE

Male, 35. Car accident. His wife, infant child and parents were also in the SUV. They were not wearing seatbelts. He lost control of the SUV and crashed. Everyone, except for him, was ejected and killed instantly.

TWO

Diagnosis: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

ONE

Female, 58, Stage IV Brain Cancer. She couldn't tell me her date of birth. She could tell me that she's in chemo, but really, she said, what's the point?

Beat.

TWO

I don't know.

FOUR

I don't know.

THREE

I don't know.

Beat.

ONE

When I first started and had a call like that, I would burst into tears.

FOUR

I don't do that any more.

TWO

Human beings can get used to anything.

Beat.

THREE

Unfortunately.

ONE

And the kicker is...we won't pay the claim.

TWO

For the metastatic brain cancer victim.

FOUR

She isn't eligible for coverage. Under the policy she needed to work 30 hours a week.

.

ONE

And her employer only gave her 28.

Pause.

A bell rings.

Beat. The cast looks at each with resigned looks.

FOUR

Good morning.

TWO

Dependable Insurance Incorporated.

THREE

Dependable Insurance.

Dependable Insurance. ONE

Dependable Insurance. FOUR

Claims department. THREE

How may I help you? ALL

Blackout

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